

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission



Arizona Youth Survey 2012 Gambling Data Brief

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Arizona

May 2013

The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) conducts a statewide, biennial survey with technical assistance from Bach Harrison, LLC to estimate the prevalence of drug use and other risky behaviors among Arizona 8th, 10th, and 12th grade youth and inquire about the circumstances in which they live. The Arizona Youth Survey (AYS) is a school-based survey that was successfully implemented in 2012 across 349 schools in all 15 Arizona counties resulting in a final sample size of 62,817 youth. For the past four administrations of the AYS, youth gambling questions were included in the survey at the request of the Arizona Office of Problem Gambling. This data brief provides a concise overview of the results of the gambling questions and their relationship to risk and protective factors, substance use, and antisocial behavior.

Table 1: Characteristics of Respondents by Level of Gambling, 2012

| | Non Gamblers | | Infrequent Gamblers | | Frequent Gamblers | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---------|---------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Total Students | 17,108 | 27.9 | 26,331 | 43.0 | 17,806 | 29.1 |
| Grade | | | | | | |
| 8 | 7,060 | 41.3 | 11,856 | 45.0 | 9,232 | 51.8 |
| 10 | 5,203 | 30.4 | 8,060 | 30.6 | 5,048 | 28.3 |
| 12 | 4,845 | 28.3 | 6,415 | 24.4 | 3,526 | 19.8 |
| Gender | | | | | | |
| Male | 6,936 | 41.4 | 11,782 | 45.7 | 10,685 | 61.8 |
| Female | 9,824 | 58.6 | 13,983 | 54.3 | 6,618 | 38.2 |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | | |
| Asian—Non Hispanic | 541 | 5.0 | 700 | 4.5 | 363 | 3.9 |
| Pacific Islander—Non Hispanic | 79 | 0.7 | 132 | 0.8 | 105 | 1.1 |
| Native American—Non Hispanic | 518 | 4.8 | 766 | 4.9 | 673 | 7.2 |
| African American—Non Hispanic | 551 | 5.1 | 775 | 5.0 | 569 | 6.1 |
| White—Non Hispanic | 7,921 | 73.0 | 11,306 | 72.7 | 6,508 | 69.9 |
| Multi-Racial—Non Hispanic | 677 | 6.2 | 1,143 | 7.3 | 680 | 7.3 |
| Hispanic | 5,260 | 30.7 | 9,427 | 35.8 | 7,455 | 41.9 |

Gambling Behavior

Table 1 describes the characteristics of students by level or frequency of gambling. Infrequent gamblers are subjects who indicated they had gambled "Before, but not in the past 12 months," or "At least once in the past 12 months," and frequent gamblers are subjects who responded that they had gambled "Once or twice a month," "Once or twice a week," or "Almost every day." Of the youth who responded to the gambling questions, 27.9 percent reported never gambling, 43.0 percent reported infrequent gambling, and 29.1 percent reported frequent gambling.

The survey also asked about the types of gambling youth participated in during the 12 months prior to taking the survey (Table 2). The gambling types with the highest percentage of youth reporting participation during the 12 months prior to the survey were playing cards, betting on sports, and betting on games of skill. The same data reveals that gambling by youth has decreased in every gambling category since the 2010 AYS administration except for lottery/scratch-off tickets and raffles.

Table 2: Gambling Questions by Grade and Year of AYS Administration, 2010-2012

| How often have you done the following for money, possessions, or anything of value: (At least once in the past 12 months) | 8th Grade | | 10th Grade | | 12th Grade | | Total | |
|---|-----------|------|------------|------|------------|------|-------|------|
| | 2010 | 2012 | 2010 | 2012 | 2010 | 2012 | 2010 | 2012 |
| Any Gambling | 61.6 | 59.0 | 59.8 | 57.2 | 56.5 | 53.7 | 59.7 | 57.2 |
| Played cards? | 36.1 | 31.7 | 36.0 | 31.1 | 34.8 | 30.3 | 35.7 | 31.2 |
| Bet on a game of personal skill such as pool or a video game? | 28.2 | 25.6 | 27.7 | 24.3 | 24.9 | 22.1 | 27.2 | 24.4 |
| Bet on sports? | 28.6 | 26.1 | 27.0 | 24.5 | 24.4 | 21.5 | 27.0 | 24.5 |
| Played a dice game? | 26.0 | 24.4 | 21.9 | 20.5 | 17.9 | 16.1 | 22.6 | 21.2 |
| Played bingo? | 26.4 | 25.7 | 20.4 | 19.6 | 14.2 | 13.2 | 21.4 | 20.8 |
| Played the lottery or scratch-off tickets? | 21.4 | 23.1 | 20.7 | 22.4 | 18.9 | 21.5 | 20.6 | 22.5 |
| Bought a raffle ticket? | 15.9 | 16.8 | 16.6 | 16.6 | 15.3 | 16.0 | 16.0 | 16.5 |
| Played a slot machine, poker machine or other gambling machine? | 5.3 | 4.6 | 4.8 | 4.2 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 5.2 | 4.6 |
| Bet on a horse or other animal race? | 5.0 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.0 | 4.8 | 4.5 |
| Gambled on the Internet? | 5.1 | 4.9 | 4.6 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 3.6 | 4.7 | 4.3 |

Risk and Protective Factors

The AYS includes a set of questions about risk and protective factors that are correlated with delinquency and substance use. Chart 1 illustrates the relationship between youth gambling and these factors. As the number of risk factors to which youth are exposed increases, so too does the percentage of youth who report gambling. Conversely, as the number of protective factors to which youth are exposed increases, the percentage of youth who report gambling decreases.

Chart 1: Relationship Between Youth Gambling and Accumulated Risk and Protective Factors, 2012

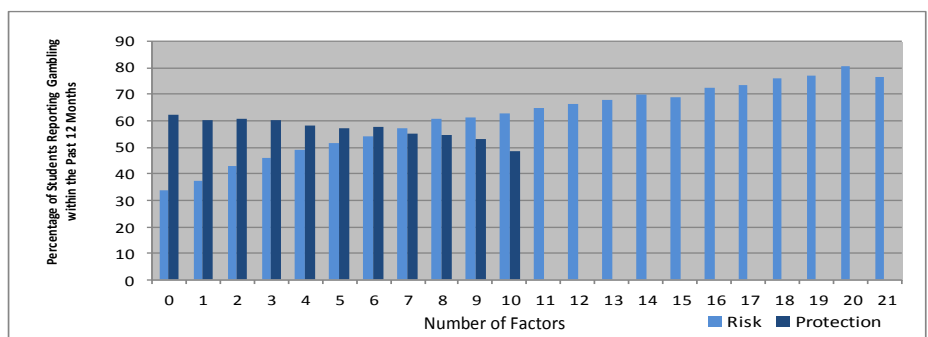


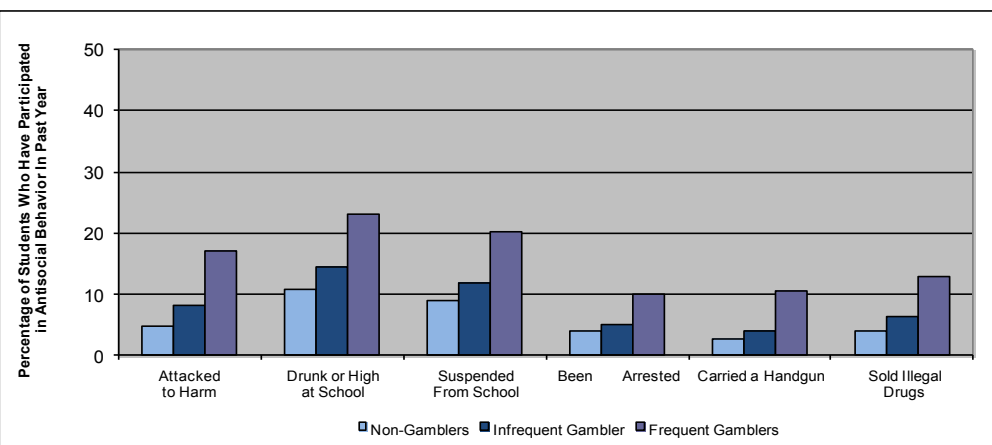
Table 3: Substance Use by Type of Gambler, 2012

| | Non-Gamblers | Infrequent Gamblers | Frequent Gamblers |
|--|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Alcohol | | | |
| Lifetime Use | 38.4 | 53.0 | 62.6 |
| 30-Day Use | 19.7 | 26.9 | 37.7 |
| Cigarettes | | | |
| Lifetime Use | 22.0 | 27.8 | 36.8 |
| 30-Day Use | 9.7 | 11.5 | 18.0 |
| Smokeless Tobacco | | | |
| Lifetime Use | 5.0 | 7.6 | 13.0 |
| 30-Day Use | 2.2 | 2.9 | 6.4 |
| Marijuana | | | |
| Lifetime Use | 22.5 | 28.4 | 35.4 |
| 30-Day Use | 10.8 | 13.5 | 18.9 |
| Hallucinogens | | | |
| Lifetime Use | 3.1 | 3.9 | 6.4 |
| 30-Day Use | 1.0 | 1.0 | 2.3 |
| Cocaine | | | |
| Lifetime Use | 2.5 | 3.0 | 5.8 |
| 30-Day Use | 0.6 | 0.8 | 2.0 |
| Inhalants | | | |
| Lifetime Use | 4.9 | 9.6 | 14.9 |
| 30-Day Use | 1.2 | 2.2 | 5.3 |
| Methamphetamines | | | |
| Lifetime Use | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.9 |
| 30-Day Use | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.7 |
| Heroin | | | |
| Lifetime Use | 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.9 |
| 30-Day Use | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.7 |
| Ecstasy | | | |
| Lifetime Use | 4.3 | 5.5 | 8.6 |
| 30-Day Use | 0.9 | 1.0 | 2.4 |
| Steroids | | | |
| Lifetime Use | 0.7 | 1.4 | 3.0 |
| 30-Day Use | 0.2 | 0.4 | 1.2 |
| Prescription Pain Relievers | | | |
| Lifetime Use | 8.5 | 13.7 | 19.1 |
| 30-Day Use | 3.5 | 5.4 | 10.0 |
| Prescription Stimulants | | | |
| Lifetime Use | 3.6 | 5.2 | 7.2 |
| 30-Day Use | 1.2 | 1.7 | 3.1 |
| Prescription Sedatives | | | |
| Lifetime Use | 4.2 | 7.0 | 9.2 |
| 30-Day Use | 1.5 | 2.3 | 4.2 |
| Over-the-Counter Drugs | | | |
| Lifetime Use | 5.6 | 9.2 | 13.3 |
| 30-Day Use | 2.2 | 3.9 | 7.2 |
| Other Club Drugs | | | |
| Lifetime Use | 1.3 | 1.9 | 4.0 |
| 30-Day Use | 0.3 | 0.4 | 1.3 |
| Synthetic Drugs (Bath Salts, Spice, etc.) | | | |
| Lifetime Use | 6.3 | 9.4 | 14.0 |
| 30-Day Use | 2.9 | 3.8 | 7.1 |

This fact sheet was prepared by:
Steve Irvine, Research Analyst
Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
1110 W. Washington, Suite 230
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(P) 602.364.1173
(F) 602.364.1175

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Chart 2: Delinquent and Antisocial Behavior by Type of Gambler, 2012



Youth Gambling and Substance Use

This analysis reveals a correlation between the frequency of gambling (i.e., from non-gamblers to frequent gamblers) and substance use (Table 3). Youth who are more frequent gamblers also report using drugs at higher rates than less frequent gamblers. Consistent with the findings on substance use by youth more generally, the most commonly used drugs by youth who gamble are alcohol, marijuana, and cigarettes.

Youth Gambling and Antisocial Behavior

The data also investigates the relationship between frequency of gambling and participation in delinquent and anti-social behaviors (Chart 2). Similar to the relationship between gambling and substance use, frequent gamblers are more likely to report delinquent or antisocial behavior in the past 12 months than other types of gamblers. For example, 17.1 percent of frequent gamblers report attacking someone with the intent of seriously hurting them in the 12 months prior to completing the survey, while only 4.7 percent of non-gamblers report attacking someone with the intent of seriously hurting them.

Initiation of Youth Gambling

The survey also asked youth how old they were when they first gambled. The average age of reported first gambling was 11.4 years. Youth were also asked how old they were when they began using various substances and participating in antisocial or delinquent behaviors, including being suspended from school, being arrested, and carrying a gun. Of all behaviors described, the average age of first gambling was younger than the average age of first substance use or first participation in antisocial or delinquent behavior (Chart 3). In 2012, the age of initiation question was changed to capture more age variation. For this reason 2010 data is not included in this chart.

Chart 3: Average Age of Initiation by Antisocial Behavior and Substance Use, 2012

